Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AF-10 NEA-10 PM-09 AID-20 MC-02 ACDA-19

L-03 EB-11 IGA-02 SS-15 GAC-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01

RSR-01 /157 W

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R 121915 Z APR 73 FM AMEMBASSY ROME TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8284

CONFIDENTIAL ROME 2936

E. O. 11652: GDS TAGS: MASS, TU

SUBJECT: HELICOPTERS FOR TURKISH JANDARMA

REFS: A. STATE 065982; B. ANKARA 2666

- 1. FROM THIS PERSPECTIVE WE BELIEVE EMBASSY ANKARA HAS TAKEN CORRECT POSITION. IT IS OBVIOUSLY NOT IN OUR INTEREST TO CONTINUE TO ALLOW THE PROBLEM OF U. S. BELL- AGUSTA BELL COMPETITION (WHICH IS APPARENTLY STILL UNRESOLVED DESPITE USG ADMONITION DURING LAST YEAR'S ANALOGOUS CASE OF HELICOPTER SALES TO MOROCCO) TO COMPLICATE U. S.- GOI RELATIONS. DIRECT USG INVOLVEMENT IN FORM OF FMS SALES IN THE PRESENT CASE WOULD BE INTERPRETED BY GOI AS ACQUIESCENCE IN AN ACTION VIOLATING THE SPIRIT OF THE U. S. BELL- AGUSTA BELL MARKETING AGREEMENT AND UNDERMINING GOI EFFORTS TO CONSOLIDATE AND EXPAND ITS LINKS TO OTHER MEDITERRANEAN NATIONS, A POLICY WHICH THIS EMBASSY HAS CONSISTENTLY SUPPORTED.
- 2. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE REALIZE THAT THERE ARE CONSIDERATIONS WHICH COULD LEAD WASHINGTON TO CHOOSE TO EXTEND FMS CREDITS IN THIS CASE, AMONG THEM THE FACT THAT THE U. S. HAS RELATIVELY LESS INTEREST IN AN EXPANDED ITALIAN PRESENCE IN TURKEY, A NATO ALLY, THAN IN NORTH AFRICAN COUNTRIES SUCH AS MORROCCO WITH WHICH WE HAVE NO FORMAL ALLIANCE TIES. WE THINK SUCH A DECISION WOULD CONFIDENTIAL

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NOT CAUSE GRAVE PROBLEMS HERE. FOR ONE THING, WE COULD CITE RECENT USG APPROVAL OF AGUSTA BELL HELICOPTER SALES TO LIBYA AS EVIDENCE OF U. S. RECOGNITION OF ITALIAN INTERSTS IN THE DITERRANEAN LITTORAL. VOLPE

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^{***} Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

^{***} Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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TAGS: MASS, TU

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